

# Resources for vascular access information

- **Understanding Your Hemodialysis Access Options** by American Association of Kidney Patients, revised 3/06.  
For an electronic copy, visit:  
<http://www.aakp.org/brochures/access-options>
- **Hemodialysis Access: What You Need to Know**, National Kidney Foundation, Inc., 11-50-0216 – English, 11-50-02201 – Spanish.  
For an electronic copy, visit:  
<http://www.kidney.org/atoz/atozItem.cfm?id=191>

## Web sites:

- <http://esrd.ipro.org>
- <http://www.fistulafirst.org/patients/patients.php>
- <http://www.aakp.org>
- <http://www.kidney.org/patients/>

**IPRO** End Stage Renal Disease  
Network of New York

1979 Marcus Avenue, Suite 105  
Lake Success, NY 11042  
516-209-5578

Toll Free: 1-800-238-3773 (for patients only)  
Fax: 516-326-8929  
Email: [info@nw2.esrd.net](mailto:info@nw2.esrd.net)

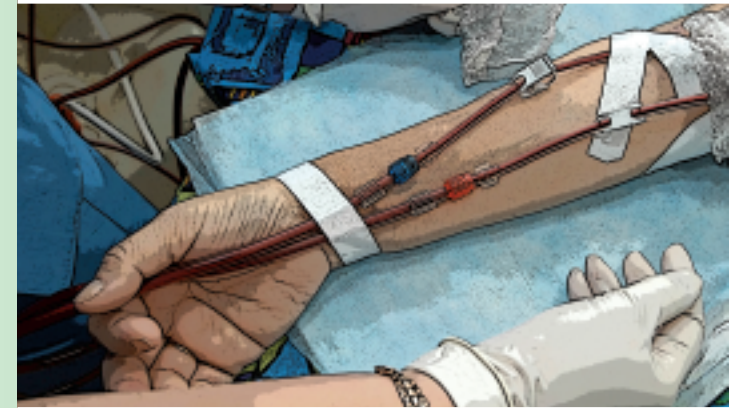
# Quiz

1. What is the vascular access of choice?
  - a. Fistula
  - b. Graft
  - c. Catheter
2. What vascular access has a history of lasting many years?
  - a. Fistula
  - b. Graft
  - c. Catheter
3. What access has fewer complications?
  - a. Fistula
  - b. Graft
  - c. Catheter
4. What access type is used for emergencies and should only be used temporarily?
  - a. Fistula
  - b. Graft
  - c. Catheter

Answers:  
1. A, 2. A, 3. A, 4. C.

Materials adapted from the Southern California Renal Disease Council, Inc (Network 18) and the Northwest Renal Network (Network 16).

# Vascular Access for Hemodialysis



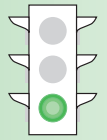
## A Guide for Patients



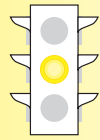
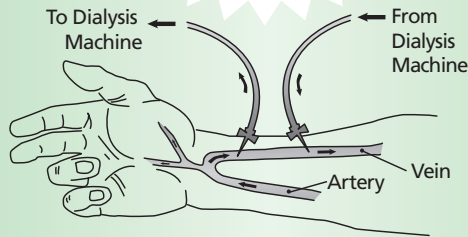
arteriovenous  
**FISTULA FIRST**  
AVF — The first choice for hemodialysis

**IPRO** End Stage Renal Disease  
Network of New York

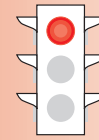
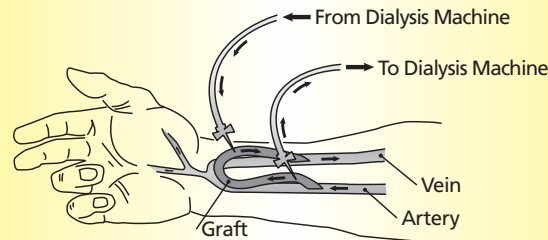
# Vascular Access for Hemodialysis



## FISTULA BEST CHOICE

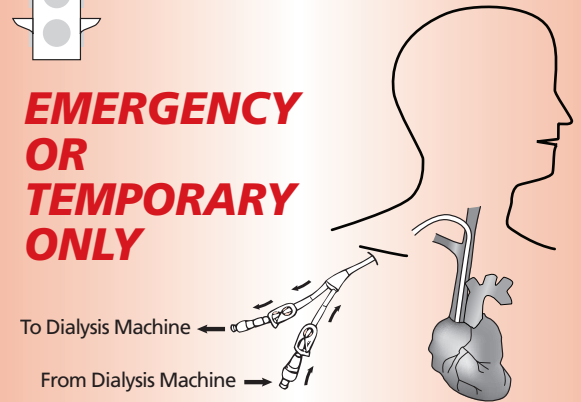


## GRAFT ALTERNATE CHOICE



## CATHETER

### EMERGENCY OR TEMPORARY ONLY



### LOCATIONS

- Forearm
- Upper Arm
- Thigh

- Forearm
- Upper Arm
- Thigh
- Chest
- Straight or Loop

- Neck (jugular vein)
- Groin (femoral vein)
- Chest (subclavian vein)  
*should be avoided*

### ADVANTAGES

- + Lasts many years
- + Less chance of infection
- + Higher blood flow rates
- + Fewer complications

- + Can be used in two weeks after placement
- + Use for when a fistula does not work
- + Use for patients with special health issues

- + Can be used in an emergency  
(must have chest x-ray for placement prior to initial use)
- + Can be used while other access types are maturing

### DISADVANTAGES

- Takes the longest to mature (develop)
- May fail to mature, due to other health issues

- Clotting
- Infection
- Swelling
- Frequent interventions required
- May affect blood flow to the hand (Steal Syndrome)

- Clotting
- Infection
- Lower blood flow rates
- Vessel damage
- Designed for short-term use only